


WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL AGENDA BILL

NO. 2018-173A

| CLEARANCES | Initial | Date | Date Received in Council Office | Agenda Date | Assigned to: |
|--------------------|---------|---------|--|-------------|------------------------|
| Originator: | RM | 7/10/18 |  | 7/24/18 | Committee of the Whole |
| Division Head: | | | | | |
| Dept. Head: | TH | 7/10/18 | | | |
| Prosecutor: | ODQ | 7/12/18 | | | |
| Purchasing/Budget: | | | | | |
| Executive: | TL5 | 7.16.18 | | | |

TITLE OF DOCUMENT:

Establishing a level of service and action plan for the Lummi Island Ferry System.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Proposed resolution
- Lummi Island Ferry System Level of Service Alternatives Analysis (without appendices)

SEPA review required? () Yes (x) NO
 SEPA review completed? () Yes (n/a) NO

Should Clerk schedule a hearing? () Yes (x) NO
 Requested Date:

SUMMARY STATEMENT OR LEGAL NOTICE LANGUAGE: (If this item is an ordinance or requires a public hearing, you must provide the language for use in the required public notice. Be specific and cite RCW or WCC as appropriate. Be clear in explaining the intent of the action.)

The Lummi Island Ferry Advisory Committee is recommending the Whatcom County Council adopt the proposed resolution with exhibit A to establish a level of service and action plan for the Lummi Island Ferry System.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

7/24/2018: Forwarded to Council for approval

COUNCIL ACTION:

7/24/2018: Approved 7-0, Resolution 2018-026

Related County Contract #:

Related File Numbers:

Ordinance or Resolution Number:

Res. 2018-026

Please Note: Once adopted and signed, ordinances and resolutions are available for viewing and printing on the County's website at: www.co.whatcom.wa.us/council.

PROPOSED BY: Public Works

INTRODUCED: _____

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-026

**ESTABLISHING A LEVEL OF SERVICE
FOR THE LUMMI ISLAND FERRY SYSTEM**

WHEREAS, the Lummi Island Ferry Advisory Committee was established to review and provide recommendations on proposed changes to ferry operations and fares; and,

WHEREAS, the Lummi Island Ferry Advisory Committee was established to assist the county in collecting information from ferry riders on actual and desired ferry services, concerns, and ideas for improved service; and,

WHEREAS, the Lummi Island Ferry Advisory Committee was established to analyze and develop recommendations to continue and improve the cost-effective operation of ferry service to Lummi Island; and,

WHEREAS, the Lummi Island Ferry Advisory Committee was established to research, review, and make recommendations regarding ferry replacement, long-term planning, parking, transportation to and from ferry docks, alternative docking locations, alternative funding sources, and other major capital and operational issues regarding ferry service to Lummi Island; and,



WHEREAS, the Whatcom County Council asked the Lummi Island Ferry Advisory Committee to propose a Level of Service Ferry System Action Plan to meet the goals established with Resolution 2017-012; and,

WHEREAS, the alternatives analysis identified in Policy 6C-9 of the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan is complete; and,

WHEREAS, the Lummi Island Ferry Advisory Committee has proposed a Level of Service Action Plan for the Lummi Island Ferry System identified in Exhibit A.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Whatcom County Council approves the Level of Service Action Plan for the Lummi Island Ferry Service as shown on the attachment hereto (Exhibit A).

APPROVED this 24th day of July, 2018.

ATTEST:


Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Rud Browne, Council Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Christopher Quinn
Deputy Prosecuting Attorney – Civil Division

Exhibit A

Lummi Island Ferry Service Level of Service Action Plan

1. Vessel

A. Balancing capacity against operating costs (fuel, personnel, etc.) to ensure affordable fares over the long run, including needs-based fares, while optimizing vehicle demand, deck space and trip frequency to minimize wait times, the design and construction of a 34 car vessel is added to the 2019-2024 Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program. The timing of the design and construction shall coincide with the next cycle of funding by the County Road Administration Board.

B. The design of the vessel shall accommodate all walk-on passengers during typical peak times, accommodate legal loads of vehicles per Washington State Commercial Vehicle Guide and comply with U.S. Coast Guard safety standards and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

C. To approach the goal of a carbon neutral vessel and provide flexibility for future electric conversion and reliability, the design of the vessel shall be a hybrid diesel-electric.

2. Terminals

A. Design and construction of the marine structure modifications to the Gooseberry Point terminal and Lummi Island terminal to accommodate the new vessel is added to the 2019-2024 Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program. The timing of the design and construction shall coincide with the next cycle of funding by the County Road Administration Board and the construction of the new vessel.

B. In addition to the modifications to accommodate a new vessel, improvements to the Lummi Island terminal shall include: reconfigure the queuing lanes, install ADA restrooms, and improve bicycle and pedestrian loading by locating the queuing area as close to the vessel as possible to reduce the time required to load onto the ferry.

C. Implement remote ferry queue monitoring.

D. Implement self-service ticketing.

E. Whatcom County will initiate an intergovernmental agreement with the Lummi Nation to confirm the location of the Gooseberry Point Terminal as shown on the 2015 Lummi Nation TIGER grant application. Upon the finalization of the agreement Whatcom County Public Works shall initiate the environmental review and permitting process for the Gooseberry Point terminal relocation.

F. Construction of the new Gooseberry Point terminal relocation is to be accomplished prior to the end of the Uplands Lease Agreement with the Lummi Nation (October 2046). The design shall include dual lane loading and improve bicycle and pedestrian loading by locating the queuing area as close to the vessel as possible to reduce the time required to load onto the ferry.

G. Whatcom County shall coordinate the Gooseberry Point terminal relocation with the Lummi Nation's permitting, funding and construction of the future Fisherman's Cove Improvements.

H. As property becomes available, Whatcom County shall purchase lands adjacent and near the new location of the Gooseberry Point terminal. The property will be utilized for off-street queuing, parking, and passenger amenities.

I. All infrastructures shall be designed to accommodate the 100-year sea level rise prediction by NOAA.

3. Operations

A. A Whatcom County ferry district will be created to increase grant opportunities. This district shall be funded by a seasonal surcharge on single cash fares for the capitalization of future vessels.

B. The long-term improvements shall be phased over time to allow for a complete funding portfolio to leverage a variety of funding sources and mechanisms.

C. Change the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan policies regarding Ferry System service:

a. ~~Policy 6A-1: The Lummi Island Ferry Advisory Committee (LIFAC) is cooperating with Public Works to develop an updated LOS standard. LIFAC will present a revision to this section when that work is complete. The interim LOS is calculated using the scheduled trips, the estimated car unit of the ferry, and the Small Area Estimates Program (SAEP) population figure. The interim standard is established at 439. (LOS = (Scheduled one-way trips X estimated car units for the boat) X 2 / SAEP population figure from OFM for Lummi Island.)~~ Public Works shall establish a performance metric to monitor service performance of the Lummi Island Ferry system. This will include a week long count at least every quarter in both sailing directions. This count will include percent capacity, on-time performance, and the number of vehicles left in the queue. The count shall be compared to the desired level of service of no more than two sailing waits during average weekday peak periods.

b. ~~Strike Policy 6C-9:~~

~~Policy 6C-9: Conduct a ferry feasibility study to inform the next annual~~

Comprehensive Plan update so that sufficient planning, engineering, design and cost detail is available to use in competing for grants and other sources of funding for a replacement ferry. LIFAC should provide input on the scope of work and any consultants or vendors retained, as well as reviewing and providing input on key milestones.